

**Process for Producing a Polyvinyl Alcohol Gel and a Mechanically  
Highly Stable Gel Produced According to the Process**

Abstract of the Disclosure:

- 5           A polyvinyl alcohol gel can be easily and quickly produced by a process having the following steps: (a) use of an aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution with a degree of hydrolysis  $\geq 98\%$  by moles; (b) admixture of an additive that is dissolved in the aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution and forms a separate, finely distributed and aqueous phase after concentration of the solution; (c) drying of the
- 10   aqueous solution to a residual water content of maximum 50 wt.% to cause the phases to separate and hence the polyvinyl alcohol to gel; (d) rehydrating the polyvinyl alcohol in an aqueous medium. The resultant polyvinyl alcohol gel has a high degree of mechanical stability.